to unintelligible peculiarity of what used to be called space.

Other physicists took the opposite line, and instead of repudiating forces, resolved matter into forces; every atom a centre of force that radiates throughout the universe affecting every other. Others again proposed to resolve the world into energies of different kinds ; holding out an attractive sop to recalcitrant sceptics by including in the list a mental or psychic energy, nowise inferior in status to its fellows.

Again, the increased control of electro-magnetic phenomena and the theory which assimilated them to the undulatory theory of light were among the triumphs of nineteenth-century physics. Yet all of these phe-nomena remained recalcitrant to the strictly mechanical theory; and were brought into some kind of intelligible scheme only by assigning to the hypothetical and now largely discarded ether an impossible combination of properties.

Thus, even at its heyday, and in respect to the phe-nomena which best lent themselves to mechanical explanation, the strictly mechanical theory of the physical world left unillumined many urgent questions ; and there were rival theories in the field. For, if it gave, by aid of the theory of ether, fairly consistent explanations of the phenomena of light and heat and sound, it left un-illumined those of electricity and magnetism, of chemical affinity, of gravitation and of solidity. As Einstein has summed up in his recent book : ' Science did not succeed

in carrying out the mechanical program convincingly, and to-day no physicist believes in the possibility of its fulfilment'.

While the physicists were chiefly concerned with the